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BELGIAN AWARD TO CONCORDIA ENGINEER

Concordia electrical engineering professor M. Vidyasagar has been named winner of the Prix George Montefiore, awarded once every five years for outstanding original research in some branch of electrical engineering by the Belgian Association des Ingénieurs Électriciens.

The prize, initiated in 1911 and worth about \$1800, commemorates George Montefiore, a renowned Belgian engineer who advanced the profession there. The competition is international - with entries from 14 countries this year. People of twelve different nationalities have been winners to date.

Professor Vidyasagar shares the prize for the period 1970-75 with Professor C.A. Desoer of the University of California at Berkeley, his collaborator in a research monograph, "Feedback Systems: Input-Output Properties", published in 1975. According to Prof. Vidyasagar, his research entails a systems approach whereby problems common to a variety of disciplines (engineering, biology, economics, mathematics) can be dealt with by means of a common, interdisciplinary system theory.

Professor Vidyasagar, along with several other Concordia professors from Science and Commerce, has been involved with an informal group of researchers from McGill and the U of M who share his concerns. Each year they sponsor a conference called "Optimization Days"; and in May 1977 it will be held at Concordia.

Besides winning this esteemed prize, Professor Vidyasagar claims at least one other distinction: in 1969, a year before coming to the University, he received his Ph.D. from Wisconsin - at the age of 21.

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